

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application.

Claims 13-16 are allowed.

Claims 1 and 4-10 stand rejected.

Claims 2, 3, 11, and 12 stand objected to.

Claims 1, 4, and 7 have been amended.

Because no new matter has been added, Applicants respectfully submit that the above-referenced continuation application is entitled to the original filing date of June 30, 2000.

Phone Interview – April 8, 2004

The undersigned wishes to acknowledge the telephone interview conducted on April 8, 2004 and to thank Examiner Phan for his careful consideration and insightful suggestions, which Applicants have found most helpful in progressing this Application. Applicants also express their appreciation for Examiner Phan's review of Proposed Amendments sent on April 9, 2004. In light of the discussions between Applicants and the Examiner, Applicants have amended Claims 1, 4, and 7. Applicants believe this paper is in harmony with the results of the interview and respectfully submit that in light of the amendments, Claims 1-16 are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5090.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 17, 2004.



Attorney for Applicants

8/17/2004
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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